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Wásit (the middlemost). At this station lamps are lighted, and cannon fired off. Thence to

Bedr [Honeïn]. Thence to

Khabeb-el-bizzah (strips of cloth), an extensive plain. Thence to

Ghík, a place on the sea-shore. Thence to

'Akabah Waddán (the ascent of Waddán). Thence to

Rábigh, the place where the ihram is put on. In its neighbourhood is Johfah*, also called Muheïah.†

Here all the routes to Mecca, six days distant, unite.

The principal ancient towns between Ailah and Jiddah are—

Ælath, Elath, or Ezion-Geber, $29^{\circ} 30' 58''$ N., $35^{\circ} 5'$ E. (Rüppell).

Madian at Mogháit Sho'aïb, $27^{\circ} 40' 21''$ N., $35^{\circ} 35'$ E. (id.).

Raunath near Istabil 'Antar, Leuce Come (Albus Pagus), at Haurá. Jambia; Yambo', $24^{\circ} 7' 6''$, $38^{\circ} 27'$ (De la Badía).

Jathrippa; Yathrib, or Medínat-en-nabí (the prophet's city), $25^{\circ} 13' 40''$ N., $40^{\circ} 3'$ E. (Jomard).

Maco-raba, Mekkah, $21^{\circ} 28' 17''$ N., $40^{\circ} 15' 9''$ E. (De la Badía).

Jiddah, $21^{\circ} 28' 56''$ N., $39^{\circ} 20'$ E.

The data here given will show what approximation to accuracy was made before the survey by the officers of the *Palinurus*.

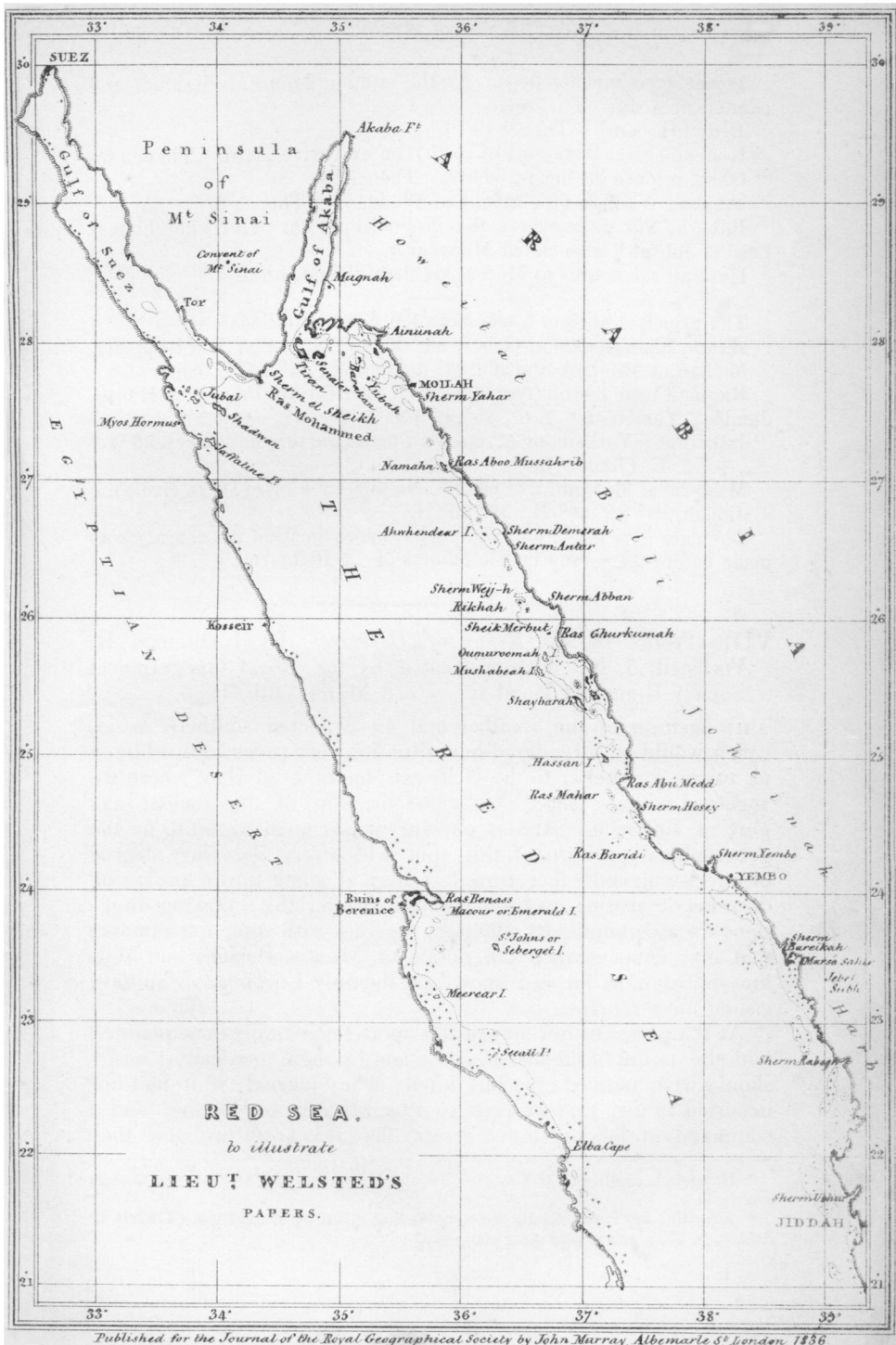
VII.—*Notice on the Ruins of Berenice.* By Lieutenant R. Wellsted, I. N. Communicated by the Royal Geographical Society Branch at Bombay. Read March 28th, 1836.

THE haziness of the weather and an expected southerly wind, which would have rendered our situation very precarious, obliged us to run for shelter to the N.E. extreme of Foul Bay, where we anchored within a short distance of the ruins of the ancient seaport of Berenice. And as our survey has enabled me to fix the geographical position of this spot with every necessary degree of precision, and other travellers may at some future period be desirous of visiting it, I am induced to offer the following directions for ascertaining its situation, together with some few remarks that may have escaped the notice of Messrs. Belzoni and Wilkinson, who, as far as I know, are the only Europeans who have visited these remains.

At the period of our stay in this spot, I was totally unacquainted with the nature of the discoveries made by these gentlemen: and I should have noticed ours but briefly in my journal, if it had not occurred to me, that we possessed facilities for excavating, and a command of labour, much greater than it is at all probable they

* Hájefeh, according to M. Bianchi (*Recueil de Voy.* ii. 153), but this is a strange oversight.

† This itinerary is not exactly the same as that given by Burckhardt (*Travels in Arabia*, p. 455), and is also more complete.



could have been provided with during their visit. On those points, therefore, where my observations agree with theirs, they may be admitted as in some degree confirming their correctness.

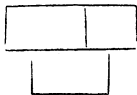
Since my arrival in Bombay, I have been enabled to procure Mr. Belzoni's travels, and from them I learn, that though that gentleman, from the direction of the route he had taken, supposed these ruins to be near the position assigned by D'Anville to Berenice, yet he had no instruments to ascertain that fact, and so doubtful was he as to its identity, that he traversed the sea-coast a day's journey to the southward, in order to ascertain if other ruins, corresponding still more closely with that situation, might not be discovered. The means he possessed for excavating did not admit of his making a discovery of any Greek remains. These were objects most essential to the decision of the point in question, which has so long been the subject of doubt and discussion with geographers.

From Ras Bernass, or Cape Nose, the coast, which is bold and safe to approach, extends to the westward thirteen miles, at which termination it takes an abrupt turn to the southward. The elbow thus formed assumes the shape of a small bay, which is partially protected from the southward by a low, sandy, and somewhat bushy point. From the southern extreme of this point, the ruins, forming sandy mounds, some of which are covered with bushes, may be clearly distinguished, bearing W.S.W. at a distance of two miles and a half. The landing place will be recognised by two hillocks about thirty feet in height, which rise close to the sea at the termination of a low conspicuous point of dark-coloured rocks.

From this point, which forms its southern extreme, a lagoon that appears formerly to have served the purpose of an inner harbour, though its entrance is now choked with sand, extends for some distance inland; and on its northern shore, at the distance of half a mile from the back, stand the ruins of the town. On the highest part, near the centre of these hillocks, the walls and upper portion of a small but massive Egyptian temple are left uncovered. If we except this building, which is in a very dilapidated state, and nearly buried in sand, there are now no vestiges worthy the attention of a traveller; but the chambers and buildings which we did not examine, judging from the result of our labours here, may conceal many valuable fragments of sculpture, hieroglyphics, &c., which would amply repay the trouble of excavating them.

The mounds occupy a space about a mile in circumference, of which, as I have before noticed, the temple is the centre; from this centre the houses branch off in narrow streets, mostly at right angles with each other. Two lines of hillocks, more widely separated, extending in a line from the temple towards the sea, denote

a street of larger size to have run in that direction. The houses surrounding the temple may amount in number to 1000 or 1500, but there are several detached in clusters from the city: they appear all to have been built of the soft madrepore, still used in the construction of the houses of Cossier and other towns on the shores of the Red Sea. We were enabled to trace by the walls (which were the only parts uncovered) the form and size of these habitations; they mostly consisted of three rooms, which were

disposed in this form . They are smaller than the

generality of houses at present existing in any part of the Red Sea coast, excepting Yembo, which is completely an Arab town. The surface of all the mounds is strewn with glass of various colours, and broken pottery. By removing the sand for a small depth, lumps of corroded brass were discovered in great quantities; some coins, the inscriptions on which were illegible, and a key, tolerably perfect in its form, were also obtained; but we were not successful in finding amidst the neighbouring ruins any articles of more importance.

The size and construction of the temple will be best exhibited by the accompanying plan and references. Its entrance faces the eastward. The limited period of our stay obliged us to confine our labours to chamber E, which appeared to have been previously partially excavated. Had we remained longer, we should probably have succeeded in clearing the whole building. After removing the sand to the depth of four or five feet, we discovered the figures I have given in the plan; and, as we proceeded, we discovered they were continued at the same level in groups round the chamber. Near the spot marked G we found two fragments, bearing Greek inscriptions, and the broken pieces of a statue, with its pedestal. Several massive stones, which had formed the roof, we next dislodged. The hieroglyphics on these were in a beautiful state of preservation. The hope of finding the remaining portions of the Greek tablets induced us to persevere in our labour until we had entirely excavated the chamber, but we were not successful. Its dimensions are given in the plan; the walls were covered with hieroglyphics, but the soft limestone with which they had been constructed has yielded to the effects of time; and the figures, with the exception of those given in the plan, are much defaced, and could be removed by merely passing the hand over them.

South-west from the ruins, and nearer the beach, there are several mounds of rubbish, covered with strong bushes: these are invariably found in the vicinity of old Egyptian towns.

It is somewhat singular, that though we minutely examined the locality, we were unable to discover any traces of either tanks or wells; nor was our search after the places of sepulture more successful.

On a first view, neither the size of the temple, nor the extent of the ruins, are such as would seem to mark the remains of a town once the emporium of the trade between India, Egypt, and Europe: yet, if we reflect that it was 270 miles from the Nile, and that it was consequently far removed from any cultivated tract whence supplies might readily be procured, there are no reasons to suppose that many inhabitants would reside there from choice, or that its size should exceed that of such a city as these ruins indicate; and I think the evidence that our observations here have enabled us to furnish, in proof of this being the Berenice Trogloditica of Ptolemy, Strabo, and Pliny, will be admitted as conclusive. I shall subjoin the following extracts from Robertson's "Historical Disquisition concerning Ancient India:"—"From the slow and dangerous navigation towards the northern extremity of the Red Sea, this canal was found to be of so little use, that in order to facilitate the communication with India, he built a city on the west coast of that sea, almost under the tropic, to which he gave the name of Berenice. This new city became the staple of trade with India. From Berenice the goods were transported to Coptos, a city three miles distant from the Nile, but which had a communication with the river by a navigable canal, of which there are still some remains, and then were carried down the stream to Alexandria. The distance between Berenice and Coptos was, according to Pliny, 258 Roman miles, and the road lay through the Desert of Thebais, almost entirely destitute of water."

"It is singular that P. Sicard ('*Mem. des Missions dans le Levant*,' tom. ii., p. 159), and some other respectable writers, should suppose Cossier to be the Berenice founded by Ptolemy, although Ptolemy has laid down its latitude at $23^{\circ} 50' N.$, and Strabo has described it as nearly under the same parallel with that of Syene (lib. iii., p. 195 D.) In consequence of this mistake, Pliny's computation of the distance between Berenice and Coptos, at 258 miles, has been deemed erroneous (Pocock, p. 87). But as Pliny not only mentions the total distance, but names the different stations in the journey, and specifies the number of miles between each, and as the Itinerary of Antoninus coincides exactly with his accounts (D'Anville, *Egypt*, p. 21), there is no reason to call in question the accuracy of it."

We made the latitude $23^{\circ} 55' N.$, differing but five miles from that given by Ptolemy.

Referring to the motives assigned by Robertson for Ptolemy Philadelphus having selected this spot in preference to others

nearer the Nile, it is natural to suppose that the monarch, desirous of gaining the object of shortening the passage in its fullest effect, would have selected a port as far to the southward as possible, (in order to avoid the strong northerly winds which prevail nine months in the year,) but which should yet be within the limits of his dominions.

To these advantages which this spot enjoys, may also be added a capacious and well-sheltered harbour, which no other locality on this coast, from lat. 23° to 24° , possesses.

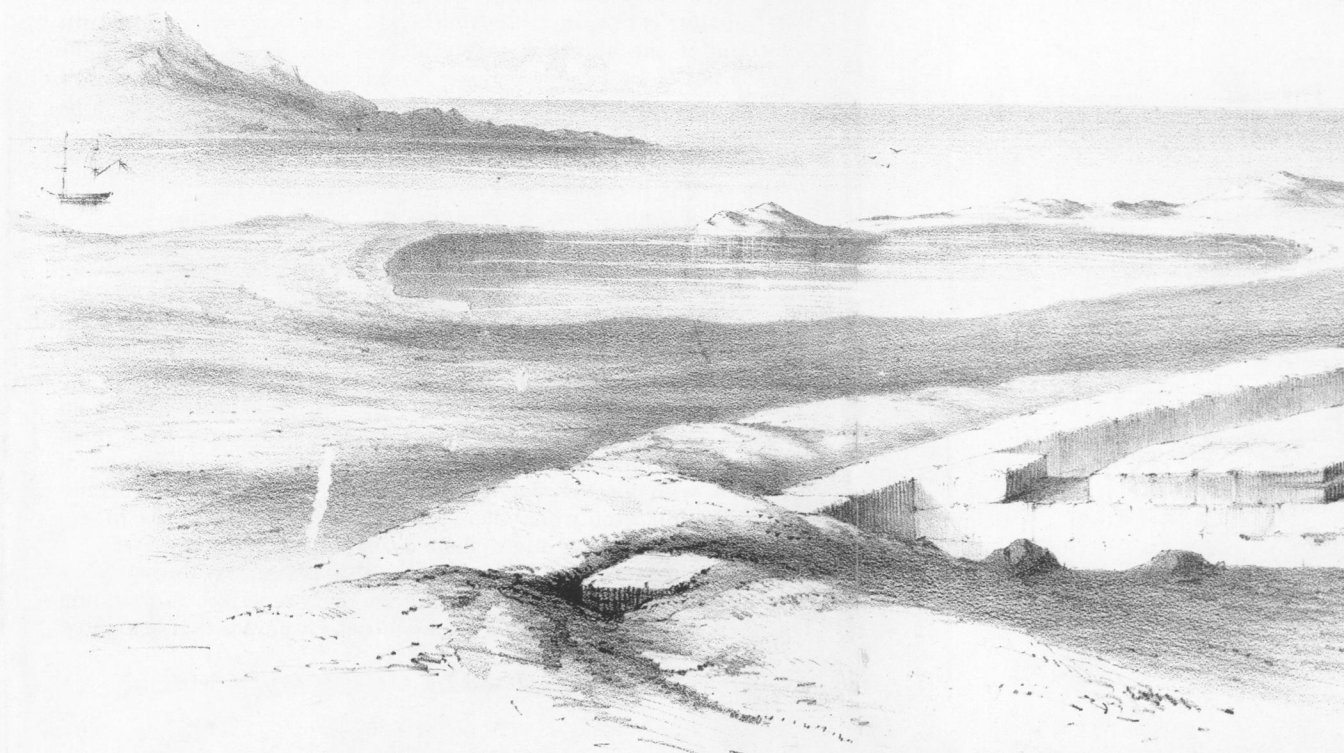
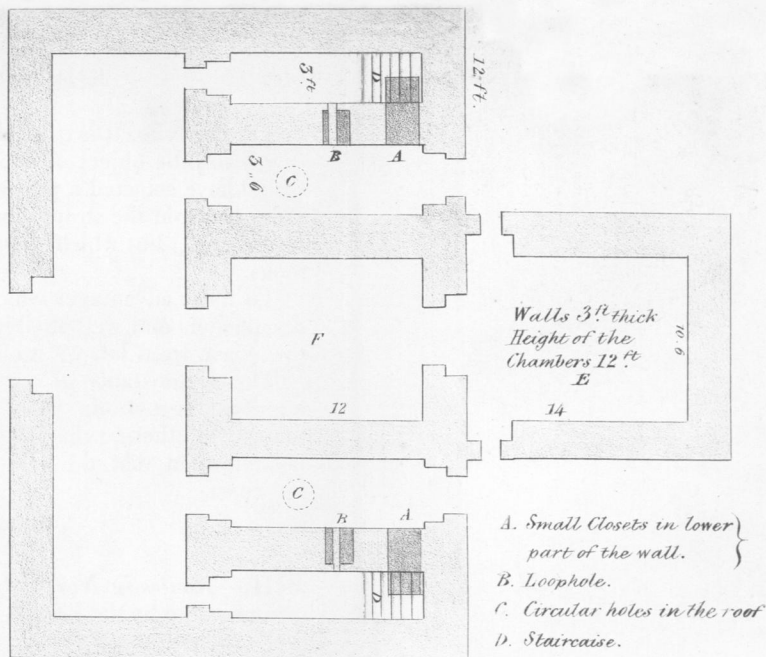
The circumstance of our finding the Greek tablet must also be admitted as a strong proof (if more is required to establish the identity of these ruins with the ancient Berenice), since we are not informed that the Greeks had other towns near this spot on the coast.

VIII.—*Routes in North Africa, by Abú Bekr es şiddík.* Communicated by the Rev. G. C. Renouard, B.D., For. Sec. R. G. S.
Read 25th April, 1836.

THOUGH the peculiar object of our inquiries is the earth which we inhabit, yet as, in truth, that earth is only interesting to us on account of the human beings which it sustains, our views ought surely not to be confined rigidly within the physical limits of the science we profess to cultivate; and we shall not be charged with overstepping the boundaries prescribed for us, if we pause occasionally in our progress, for the purpose of contemplating man, “for whom the earth was created,” under any unusual circumstances of time, place, and condition.

It is with this view of the latitude which, as geographers, we may without impropriety allow to our inquiries, that the following narrative is offered to the Society. It may not, indeed, be, strictly speaking, a geographical document, but it is illustrative of human nature under no ordinary trials and vicissitudes, and it incidentally throws some light on the geography of a remote region of the earth hitherto concealed from the eye of the European by an almost impenetrable veil. The life and adventures of a man born at Tumbuktú would be in the highest degree interesting, if written with all the details that an intelligent African could furnish; but even when there are few details—when, as in the present case, nothing more than a scanty gleanings from such a harvest can be gathered—shall it, for that reason, be thrown aside unnoticed? Shall it not rather be willingly received, as affording a gleam of light amidst the darkness which envelopes that benighted country?

Whoever has perused the lively and amusing letters on the

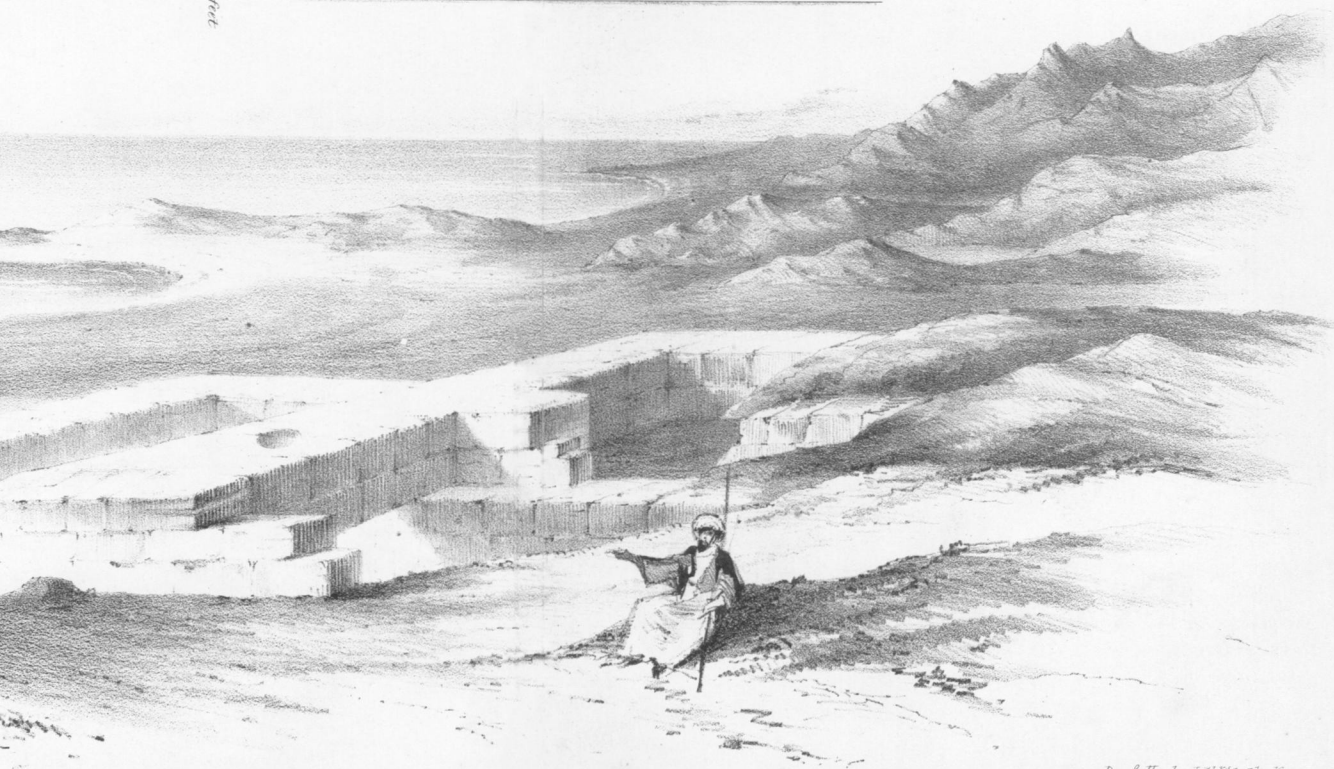
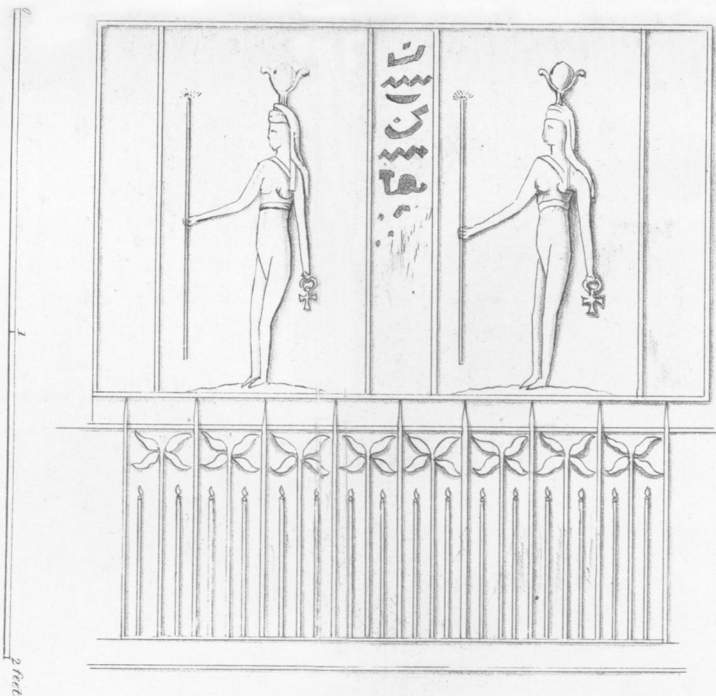


RUINS AT BERBERA

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6

s in lower }
wall.

s in the roof



Day & Haghe, Lith^{rs} to the King.

NS AT BERENICE .

Royal Geographical Society by J. Murray. Albemarle St. 1836.